GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – A.P. Forest Department – Departmental Proceedings initiated against Sri V. Satya Prasad, Forest Range Officer (Retired), earlier Dammapeta Range of Khammam Division, under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 – Punishment of "withholding of 5% (five percent) of pension permanently, besides treating the period of absence as dies-non under FR.18 Note-1" against the Charged Officer - Imposed - Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.64 **Dated:13.09.2023.**

Read the following:

1)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, Lr.Ref.No.4219/2018/A&DC-3, dated 10.01.2022.
2)Memo.No.106/Sec.IV/A1/2022, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 13.06.2022.
3)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, Lr.Ref.No.4219/2018/A&DC-3, dated 16.11.2022.
4)Letter No.106/Sec.IV/A1/2022, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 08.12.2022.
5)From the Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada, Lr.No.GAD03-APPS0DCC/124/2022-DC SEC-APPSC (Computer No.1936290), dated 12.01.2023.
6)Memo.No.106/Sec.IV/A1/2022, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated 24.02.2023.
7)From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri, Lr.Ref.No.4219/2018/A&DC-3, dated 23.08.2023.

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ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has informed that the following Article of Charge was issued to Sri V. Satya Prasad, earlier Forest Range Officer, S.F., Sathupalli, Khammam of Khammam Circle by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Telangana State, Hyderabad in Ref.No.845/2017-D&A-3, dated 23.01.2018, under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991:-

Article-I:"That he had exhibited gross neglect of duty and absconded from duty from 29.06.2011 to 20.06.2012 and from 02.07.2012 to 15.11.2016 thereby violating A.P.C.S (Conduct) Rules, 1964".

2. The Charged Officer has acknowledged the receipt of Article of Charge on 30.01.2018 and did not submit his explanation. The Charged Officer was transferred to Andhra Pradesh State in interstate transfers on mutual basis. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Telangana State has transferred the connected disciplinary case records to Andhra Pradesh.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has appointed the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle as Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Chintur as Presenting Officer in Proc.No.4219/2018/Vig-1 (i&ii), dated 12.06.2018, for conducting regular inquiry.

P.T.O.

4. The Inquiry Officer & Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle has completed the inquiry and submitted findings along with the connected case record in Rc.No.2700/2018-M8, dated 29.09.2020, wherein the Inquiry Officer concluded as follows:

> **Findings:**"On the basis of connected records and record of Inquiry adduced in the case and in view of the reasons given above, it is noticed that as far as the present case is concerned, the charges framed against Sri V. Satya Prasad, Forest Range Officer, Nellipaka Range, Chintur Division of Rajahmundry Circle, earlier Social Forestry Range, Sathupally of S.F. Division, Khammam of Khammam Circle, Telangana State **are proved**".

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur has communicated the findings of the Inquiry Officer to the Charged Officer in Ref.No.4219/2018/A&DC-3, dated 26.10.2020, for submission of further defense, if any.The Charged Officer has acknowledged the receipt of Final Notice on 09.11.2020 and submitted his further defence statement on 24.12.2020, wherein he stated that due to criminal cases filed against him, he absconded from duty and subsequently all the Court/Criminal cases were withdrawn.

6. The disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule-9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980, since the Charged Officer has retired from Government Service on attaining the age of superannuation on 31.10.2021.

7. On the examination of the matter, Government have taken a provisional decision to impose a punishment of "withholding of 5% (five percent) of pension for a period of three (3) years, besides treating the period of absence as dies-non under FR.18 Note-1", against Sri V. Satya Prasad, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Dammapeta Range of Khammam Division, under Rule-9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly, in Memo., 2nd read above a Show-cause Notice was issued to the Charged Officer through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur. The Charged Officer has acknowledged the receipt of Show-cause Notice on 28.07.2022 but did not submit his explanation.

8. The Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission in the letter 5th read above, has stated that the Commission opined that the Charged Officer exhibited gross misconduct and negligence of duties and responsibilities and against rules repeatedly and in one such instances absconded for more than 4 years without any valid grounds and he has been indulging in activities outside office which is unbecoming of a public servant. He was also involved in three (03) criminal cases as per the records. Therefore 5% cut in pension for 3 years is a very meagre and nominal punishment. It should be atleast 5% cut permanently, if not further enhanced.

9. Government have taken a provisional decision to accept the advice of A.P.Public Service Commission for enhancing the punishment to "withholding of 5% (five percent) of pension permanently, besides treating the period of absence as dies-non under FR.18 Note-1" against Sri V. Satya Prasad, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Dammapeta Range of Khammam Division, under Rule-9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly, in Memo., 6th read above a Show-cause Notice was issued to the Charged Officer through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri.The Charged Officer has acknowledged the receipt of Show-cause Notice on 27.06.2023 but did not submit his explanation.

(Contd.P.-3)

10. After careful examination of the entire issue, the Government hereby order to impose a punishment of "withholding of 5% (five percent) of pension permanently, besides treating the period of absence as dies-non under FR.18 Note-1" against Sri V. Satya Prasad, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Dammapeta Range of Khammam Division, under Rule-9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

11. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri V. Satya Prasad, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier Dammapeta Range of Khammam Division through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri.

Copy to:
The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.
The PS to M (Energy, EFS&T, Mines&Geology).
The PS to Special Chief Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department.
SF/SC (Computer No.1619861).

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER